

Community

Winter
2020

Protecting our community

Falmouth University and the University of Exeter took part in the Government testing programme for UK universities in December. We offered rapid testing to all students without symptoms before they travelled home for the holidays.

In a short time, an army of campus staff delivered a booking and testing process in the Penryn Campus sports hall.

The Universities have been working closely with local partners throughout the pandemic.

In a recent letter to students, Director of Public Health for Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Rachel Wigglesworth and Sally Hawken, Cornwall Council portfolio holder for Children, Wellbeing and Public Health wrote, “We have thankfully not had the large outbreak of cases which other universities have experienced, and this is no doubt due to decisions you have made whilst a student in Cornwall.”

When students return in January and early February it is anticipated that the same testing programme will be in place. This means we can welcome students back to campuses and minimise any disruption to their studies while helping to prevent the spread of the virus and protecting our community.

As a result of the measures put in place, the universities are well placed to continue a blended approach to teaching, providing both online and in-person teaching, as well as access to the on-campus facilities.



Hello from Lisa Roberts, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter

I became the new Vice-Chancellor in September and very much believe that the University should benefit the whole community and be an institution that everyone is proud of. As such, I am keen to strengthen our bond with the local community.

It has been a difficult few months as all of us have been dealing with the effects of COVID-19. We will continue to work closely with everyone in our community as it is clear that our partnership working and proactive testing approach has prevented the spread of the virus. The safety and wellbeing of our whole community always comes first.

I am proud of the fact that our staff and students have been involved in local and national vaccine trials, in developing new treatments and diagnostic tests, and that many of our staff and students work on the frontline in the NHS; you can find out more about this on our website.

The University of Exeter has a vital role to play in the region and I am committed to partnership working and making



the most of our education, research, innovation, global connections and creative community partnerships for the good of the whole region. This is at the forefront of our minds as we begin to develop our new ten-year strategy.

I welcome all feedback and I hope we can work together to ensure Devon and Cornwall flourishes in a fast-changing, and sometimes difficult, world. I wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Lisa Roberts - vice-chancellor@exeter.ac.uk

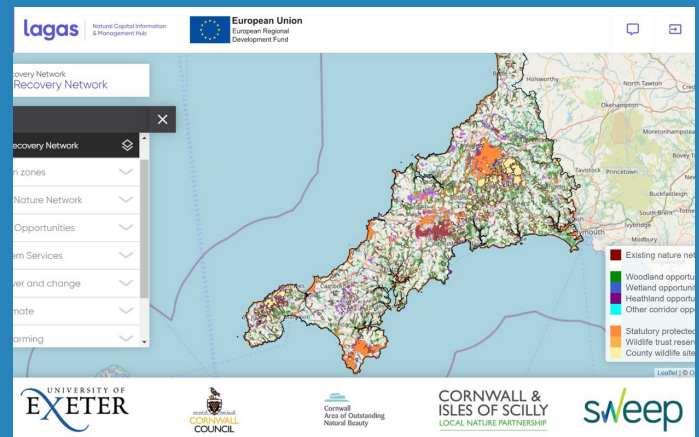
New Lagas environmental intelligence tool

A new environmental intelligence tool for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will help protect the region's precious wildlife and landscape.

Lagas, Cornish for eye, is an online hub of environmental intelligence using the latest technology in sensor networks, mapping software and live wildlife cameras positioned within the premises of partner businesses.

The project, which brings together cutting-edge University of Exeter research alongside the work of Cornwall Council and Cornwall Wildlife Trust, makes a wide range of

environmental data publicly available and fully accessible, which can then inform decision-making processes.



Penryn students receive awards for Cornish community voluntary work

Two University of Exeter students have received prestigious local awards for promoting the Celtic spirit of Cornwall. Kensa Broadhurst and Matt Blewett, both PhD students from the Institute of Cornish Studies, have been honoured by Gorsedh Kernow, one of the principal cultural organisations in Cornwall, for their voluntary and creative work in the Cornish community.

Award winners are recognised for promoting the Celtic spirit of Cornwall through creative or community work, from protecting and promoting local heritage, to encouraging greater use of the Cornish language (Kernewek). Find out more about the Institute of Cornish Studies at exeter.ac.uk/ics



Nick Darke Award winner announced

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the prestigious Nick Darke Award is Sarah Gordon, for her stage play script *The Underdog*.

The Nick Darke Award, which takes place every two years, was created in 2006 to recognise the impact of Cornish writer, playwright and poet Nick Darke and to continue his legacy through the promotion of writing talent.

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the 2020 competition is Sarah Gordon, for her stage play script *The Underdog*.

Out of almost 1,000 entries a shortlist of eight scripts was judged by a panel of top industry professionals from the world of script, stage and screen: Jeremy Howe, Molly Dineen, Roger Michell, Gareth Farr and Nick Hern.



Photo by MAYN

The winning play, *The Underdog*, looks at the legend of the Brontë sisters and the sibling dynamics that shaped their rise to fame. Sarah Gordon writes for both stage and screen, and last year, her first play 'The Edit' received five-star reviews on a tour of the UK.



New online undergraduate study opportunities at Falmouth

We're expanding the number of online courses we offer and launching three new, flexible undergraduate degrees.

Students who want to fit study around work or other commitments, can get the same TEF Gold standard teaching, industry connections and creative collaboration as our on-campus community, all while enjoying the flexibility of online study.

Creative Writing BA(Hons), and Visual Communication BA(Hons) are open for applications for 2021 entry and Interior Design BA(Hons) will open in 2022. These courses are available alongside our exciting portfolio of online postgraduate degrees. Find out more about online study at Falmouth: falmouth.ac.uk/study/online

Award for Launchpad companies

Businesses spinning out of our innovative postgraduate incubation and acceleration programme, Launchpad, are going from strength to strength.

From using satellite data to helping keep venues and their visitors Covid-safe, to developing tools for online broadcasters, the Launchpad companies are fusing creativity and new technology to create exciting new opportunities.

The enterprises are often recognised for their work and most recently, several Launchpad companies received accolades at the 2020 Tech South West Awards in November. The awards celebrate the South West tech sector's innovation, talent, creativity and entrepreneurship.

Codices, which won the award for Best Start-up, was established at Launchpad and is best known for Quiz Kit, a live interactive gameshow which received more than a million sign-ups in a single month during the Covid-19 pandemic.



The Our Effect sustainability podcast

Falmouth University and University of Exeter sustainability co-ordinators, Jake and George, have created a new podcast exploring the steps we're taking to a more sustainable university campus.

Head to the Our Effect podcast to find out more about the actions being taken by Falmouth University, the University of Exeter and the Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union. anchor.fm/our-effect-pod



Penryn Campus retains Green Flag Award

Penryn Campus gardens and grounds have been recognised by the international Green Flag Award Scheme as among the very best in the world, for the fourth year in a row.

To celebrate the achievement, Penryn Campus joined buildings and landmarks across the country – including the White Cliffs of Dover, the London Stadium and Salford's Media City – in 'going green' when Tremough House was illuminated in October. Penryn Campus gardens are open to everyone and blend historic sub-tropical planting with newly created landscapes. They are a haven for a diverse range of plant and animal species.

Dates for the diary:

Open Days

If you're interested in studying in Cornwall, why not sign up for an online experience:

Falmouth University:

If you want to know more about studying at Falmouth University, we're hosting a range of online events to help you get to know the University, our courses and our application process. Keep an eye on our website to see all upcoming events, from Virtual Open Days to webinars on how to apply: falmouth.ac.uk/events

University of Exeter:

Our online Open Days are designed to help you find out about studying at the University of Exeter and learn about the subjects we offer. You can live chat to staff and students and explore a range of web and video resources. The dates for next year's virtual Penryn Campus events will be:

- Saturday 6 March
- Saturday 13 March
- Saturday 20 March
- Saturday 27 March

Find out more at exeter.ac.uk/studying
You can also take a virtual tour of the Campus by visiting exeter.ac.uk/visit/campuses/virtualtours/

